

CHAPTER 4 SECTION 5.1

RADIONUCLIDE IMAGING PROCEDURE

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

78000 - 78799, 78800 - 78999

II. POLICY

Radionuclide imaging is covered when medically appropriate; however, the following procedures are seldom indicated and require special written justification:

A. 78070 - Radionuclide parathyroid imaging - Computerized tomography (CT) is superior to radionuclide parathyroid imaging, including its use with selenium-75 selenomethionine.

B. 78299 - Radionuclide liver function study with hepatobiliary agents, with probe technique - When available, computer-assisted radionuclide liver function study is superior.

C. 78299 - Radionuclide pancreas imaging - Computerized tomography and ultrasound are superior to radionuclide pancreas imaging, including its use with selenium-75 selenomethionine.

D. 78299 - Gastrointestinal fat absorption with radioiodinated triolein - Surpassed by other studies.

E. 78704 - Radionuclide kidney imaging with function study (i.e., imaging renogram) - When available, computer-assisted renal scintigraphy study is superior to radionuclide kidney imaging with function study, including its use with I-131 hippuran and external scintillation probes.

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